what once were considered to be merely heaps of rubbish, what do we find? The records of a nation—such records as teach us what that nation was in former times. It was great. And why? Because of the cultivation of the arts.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

In the removal of some wainscoting at Elsworth church chancel, the rector has discovered three sedilia, a water drain, and an altar tomb. The east window of this church requires restoration, with the removal also of the Grecian wainscoting from beneath it.——Mr. Butcher, edge tool grinder at Sheffield, who has had one of those unhappy disputes with his workmen for which Sheffield has become so notorious, had a narrow escape from assassination lately by an attempt made to throw a hand grenade into his bed-room window. Is it likely that the villains capable of dealing in such infernal machinery under any circumstances or pretences, have even a vestige of justice in their own cause of dispute, whatever that may be? The same dastardly and diabolical spirit that would prompt a set of cowardly assassins even to meditate such a crime, must ever present the most insurmountable of obstacles to their own welfare. Whatever be the prospect which Sheffield may have of the advent of a "new trade," it certainly seems to have but small prospect of the "new man" of whom, as we have said, it so much more stands in need.——The foundation stone of a new Methodist chapel was laid at Cradley Forge, Stourbridge, on Easter Monday.——At Devonport, in addition to two new churches in course of construction, two others are about to be built.——The old parish church at Tor has been opened, after having undergone repair and restoration, internally and externally. The seats are now open, with low backs.——The *Liverpool Times* states that on Thursday week an exceedingly numerous meeting of the operative house-joiners of that town and its vicinity was held for the purpose of establishing an institution which shall afford facilities to the members for the transaction of business, for the study of science, and for mutual improvement, apart from the pernicious influence of the public house. Mr. William Thompson was called to the chair.——On Friday week before last the new Independent Chapel at Hall Fold, Spotland (Rochdale), was opened. The building is 60 feet by 45 feet, is built of white stone, and has a gallery; it will seat 800 persons, and has cost 1,600*l.*——Plans have been procured from Messrs. Lockwood and Mawson, of Bradford, for interior restorations in Doncaster parish church.——A piece of land at Darlington, consisting of eighteen acres, belonging to the poor, is to be converted, by the parish vestry, into a park for the public. Although the poor may still greatly benefit by their property, it would be but fair perhaps that the vestry, in presenting "the respectable inhabitants," amongst whom the idea of such an appropriation originated, with a privilege so great, should give the poor some special compensation for their loss of exclusive possession and use. The *Gateshead Observer*, however, seems to have no doubt but that the liberal donors *mean* to pay the poor proprietors an annual rent for their property.——Contracts have been entered into for the erection, forthwith, of a Catholic school at South Shields, adjoining St. Bede's Church.——Edinburgh, as we are informed, has contributed about 1,300*l.* to the monument to the great "Edinburgh Reviewer," the late *Lord Jeffrey*; London about 400*l.*; and Glasgow about 100*l.*——There seems to be some likelihood of the chief stone of the Scottish National Gallery at Edinburgh being laid by Prince Albert in August or September next. The Bill sanctioning the erection is expected to pass through Parliament without delay; and, in the meantime, the operations are going forward with great vigour. The retaining wall on the west side of the Mound, for the new road in course of formation, is already well advanced; and the occupiers of temporary buildings have been warned to quit. The gradient of the present road on the Mound is one in eleven, but that of the new will only be one in fifteen. The plans and elevation, says the *Edinburgh Register*, are shortly, we believe, to be made public.——The Martello Tower at Leith has just been completed. It contains two barrack-rooms, store-room, powder-magazine, tanks, and other conveniences.——The contractor for completing the new Ashbourne road, Limerick, has sworn an information against labourers who threatened to take his life if he did not give them employment. The struggle of competition for a livelihood is savage and deadly enough, even without 'physical force:' God forbid that the 'evil example' of a Sheffield and a Limerick should elsewhere further corrupt the 'good manners' due between man and man. The adoption of such examples could only result in the total ruin of trade and industry—master and man—and in the return of one and all to a state of abject and literal barbarism.——Messrs. Lightfoot and Brothers, of St. Helens, have taken the contract for the earthenware pipes needed for the improvement commissioners' new waterworks at Burnley.

IMPROVIDENCE OF OPERATIVES.

A LATE number of your journal contains an article on the best of all reforms, *self-reform*. Much is now being said on the subject, and week by week written in various periodicals devoted to the advocacy of this and kindred questions. There is, nevertheless, an ample field, in which THE BUILDER may, as opportunity shall serve, scatter a little more of the good seed. A large class of building operatives are readers of THE BUILDER, and have an interest in almost all its subjects; hence, its remarks on the improvidence of some of this class will be more likely to have weight and influence with them than if directed from any other quarter.

It were to be hoped that improvidence amongst this class of artisans were as infrequent and exceptional as THE BUILDER conceives it to be. Too many, it is to be feared, though they may not spend their days at the public-house and gin-shop, yet devote their evenings to these places, sacrificing, by this means, not only a large amount of their hard earnings, but their health, the comfort and happiness of their dependents in many instances, —throw away at the same time both the opportunity and the means of self-culture,—erect a complete barrier to their own advancement,—and themselves and families have, as their only reward, the humiliating reflection that they are sinking into poverty, neglect, and disgrace, whilst those with whom they once had equal prospects, but who have devoted to self-improvement what the former have sacrificed to Bacchus, are sustaining respectable positions—positions from which they themselves have been effectually excluded by having preferred sensual and temporary gratification to the more lasting blessings of industry, temperance, and frugality.

Could our artisans be induced to cast off entirely the fetters which a love of drink binds about them, we should soon be surrounded by a class of men characterized by intelligence, industry, and skill, and that which is now a lamentable truth would no longer be so,—that "Monday is a bad day for many, though a good one for the publicans."

W. S.

SCENERY AND PANORAMIC VIEWS.

EASTER Monday having brought its usual amount of new extravaganzas, I looked into the last number of THE BUILDER for your accustomed notice of what the scene-painters had been about, and was sorry not to find it. Pray do not abandon the course you have hitherto pursued in this respect. Much advantage has admittedly followed it, and you have brought into notice a class of artists up to that time too little regarded, while at the same time you have led them to give some thought to style and to avoid vulgar incongruities.

A DRAMATIST ARCHITECT.

We have no intention whatever of giving up our notices, being perfectly satisfied of their usefulness.

The *Lyceum Theatre*, in an elegant version of Garrick's "Cymon and Iphigenia," made into capital fun by Mr. Planché, had a good opportunity to exhibit that high ideal of pastoral dress and scene entertained there, and have taken full advantage of it. The taste shown in the costumes would justify any commendation, and in the two principal scenes, "Urganda's Palace in the Garden," and the closing "Bower of Roses," with a most etherial distance, Mr. Beverley well maintains the reputation which Mr. Planché has enabled him to achieve, and we have spread.

The *Haymarket* capital edition of "Ivanhoe," by the Broughs, is made to depend more on the pen than the pencil, though some of the illustrations are far from indifferent. The early scenes are Norman, with evidence of attention to details. One of the *personæ*, "Robin Hood," says he is no architect,—for "though a Robin I am not a Wren:" yet all his men are said to have berths in "the Woods and Forests." But, says one,

"Don't call them bricks, they'll think you mean to scoff 'em,
And give no duty, since the duty 's off 'em."

In the new piece at the *Adelphi*, called "Playing First Fiddle," an amusing vaudeville spectacle, is a cleverly-arranged scene of the gardens of Choisy le Roi, with clipped hedges, beds with flowers, garden pavilion, statues, and gravelled paths.

The Route of the Overland Mail to India, in Nash's old Gallery, Regent-street, now that it is completed, would warrant even stronger commendation than we have already expressed. It is a most brilliant work; and the success, we are happy to find, is commensurate. The views of Malta, Cairo, women drawing water, Ceylon, and Calcutta, are singularly beautiful and effective,—the whole result a triumph.

The *Panorama of the Nile*, at the Egyptian-hall, Piccadilly, has at last obtained that recognition of its merits on the part of the public which it deserves, and is daily and nightly crowded. The proprietors will not be able to say, *De* Nile (Oh!) *nihil fit*. The added view of the rock-cut temple of Abou Simbel is a fine picture.

A panorama of the route from the United States to *California*, showing the diggings, buffalo snaring, &c., is said to be ready for exhibition.

NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR EXHIBITION OF MODERN ART.

THE exhibition of this society, in their new galleries, Regent-street, will be opened on Monday. It is an exceedingly interesting collection, and so arranged that every picture has a good place. Amongst the most noticeable works will be found pictures by R. S. Lauder, E. Lauder, Desanges, Mclan, Mrs. Mclan, Macculloch, Barraud, Percy, Niemann, Newenham, A. W. Williams, Rossetti, Deverill, Dukes, Harris, Rayner, Middleton, Hulme, Armitage, &c. Mr. Bell Smith is the secretary. The difficulties which have hampered the erection of these rooms, if duly set forth, would form an amusing and instructive tale. The lessee's architect, by whom they were built, was Mr. Tyerman.

LOCAL SCHOOLS OF DRAWING AND MODELLING FOR ARTISANS.

ST. PANCRAS.

ON Tuesday evening, the 9th, a meeting was held at the St. Pancras National School, to promote the formation of schools in this neighbourhood for the instruction of workmen and others in drawing and modelling. The chair was taken by Mr. S. C. Hall, F.S.A.; and on the platform were Lord Compton, Professor Donaldson, Mr. Latham, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Fairholt, Mr. Seddon, the Rev. D. Laing, Mr. Cave Thomas, Mr. C. Lucy, Mr. J. N. Warren, &c.

Before the commencement of the proceedings, upwards of 400 persons had assembled, the majority of whom appeared to be working men and apprentices, and who manifested throughout the evening a warm interest in the object of the meeting. A prospectus of the intended "North London School of Drawing and Modelling" was circulated in the room. This document set forth the acknowledged want of tasteful native workmen in this country, and the consequent necessity of offering to the English artisan opportunities of acquiring a power of correct and artistic execution. It fully recognised the value of the Government School of Design; but stated that the great distance of that establishment from the localities inhabited by the workmen employed in casting and chasing metals, in masonry, carving, plastering, cabinet-making,

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